

Response to Public Comments: 2002 Integrated Report

DEQ conducted a 60-day public comment period on the Policies and Procedures document and water body specific actions taken in Idaho's 2002 Integrated Report. 26-comment letters were received and DEQ most appreciates those that were provided online via DEQ's web based mapping project. Some comments came after the close of the comment period yet and all comments were considered and included.

The following 174-page table forms DEQ's response to comments regarding actions taken on the Draft 2002 Integrated Report and incorporated in the final 2002 Integrated Report. Comment 27 is DEQ internal comments reflecting updates/changes/ and/or corrections that occurred between the DRAFT and Final version of the 2002 Integrated Report. Any comments, which have no Assessment Unit identified, are comments relating to policy. In the table the reference to the "Temperature Package" directs the reader to DEQ's web site to view a collection of maps, spreadsheets and other supporting documents that prove to complex to contain in the format of this document. This package is in response to specific EPA comments in a letter dated August 14, 2003. Most of the information is contained here in Appendix A. Comments pertaining to two sets of Wilderness AUs have information supported by maps in Appendix B: Monumental Creek and Appendix C: Yellowjacket Creek.

DEQ found Comment Letter 20 from the Committee for the High Desert to be exceedingly burdensome. The Committee did not reference Assessment Units (AU). AUs are the key DEQ's geographically based reference system and are supported by an extensive online mapping project to facilitate clear and rapid comment and communication. The Committee referenced place names that lead to geographic uncertainty. DEQ spent over 3 months responding to this single comment letter. DEQ cannot exhaust these kinds of resources in the future. It is important, as DEQ noted, for comments to provide locational information, specifically AUs, so DEQ can appropriately respond to the comment. This level of effort for a single comment letter cannot be maintained. In future reporting cycles all correspondence needs to reference assessment units in order for DEQ to respond.

Appendix A.

Summary of DEQ's Proposed 303(d) Action's Regarding Water Temperature























